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In a distribution system for transforming and exchanging data between heterogeneous computer systems, a method of controlling data transformation within said distribution system, comprising the steps of:

a) operating a script processor that utilizes metadata stored in a metadata database to control the loading of data into an import data bag from a logical import data interface and performing any one or more of the following steps to convert the data to a desired format in an export data bag;

- 1) sorting said data according to a predetermined order;
 - 2) merging data from a number of data bags into one data bag;
 - 3) appending data from a first data bag into another data bag of the same type;
 - 4) copying data from a first data bag into another data bag of the same type;
 - 5) joining data from two or more data bags into another data bag using a specified key;
 - 6) formatting data from a data bag into another data bag of a different type, using a defined rule set; and
- b) saving the data in the export data bag out to an export data connection.

Claim ~~18~~¹⁷ (Amended)

A computer readable memory for transforming and

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exchanging datastore data between heterogeneous computer systems using different datastore formats for storing similar information, comprising:

[means for transforming and processing import datastore data into generic format data according to predetermined import transformation rules and functions; and

means for converting said generic format data into export datastore data according to predetermined export transformation rules and functions.]

a) executable code for providing a systems interface for defining logical import and export data interfaces, data transformation rule sets and scripts;

b) executable code for providing a script processor for utilizing metadata from a metadata database to control data transformation within said systems interface and movement of said data into and out of said distribution system; and

c) executable code for providing a rule set processor responsive to said script processor for manipulating a data bag for storing imported data and a data bag for storing export data.

Please insert new claims 19 and 20 as follows:

Claim 19 (New)

A computer readable memory as claimed in claim 18
wherein the metadata database stores logical import and export data